

A photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a tall, spiky plant with a reddish-brown trunk and a cluster of white flowers stands prominently. The ground is covered in dry, yellowish grass. In the background, there are rolling hills and a range of mountains under a clear blue sky.

What good is a ranch if you don't
raise cows?

Linda Kennedy, Ph.D., Director
Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch
National Audubon Society



You can produce
DATA!

And

PUBLISH

And

MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!

Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch

8000 acres +/-

National Audubon Society

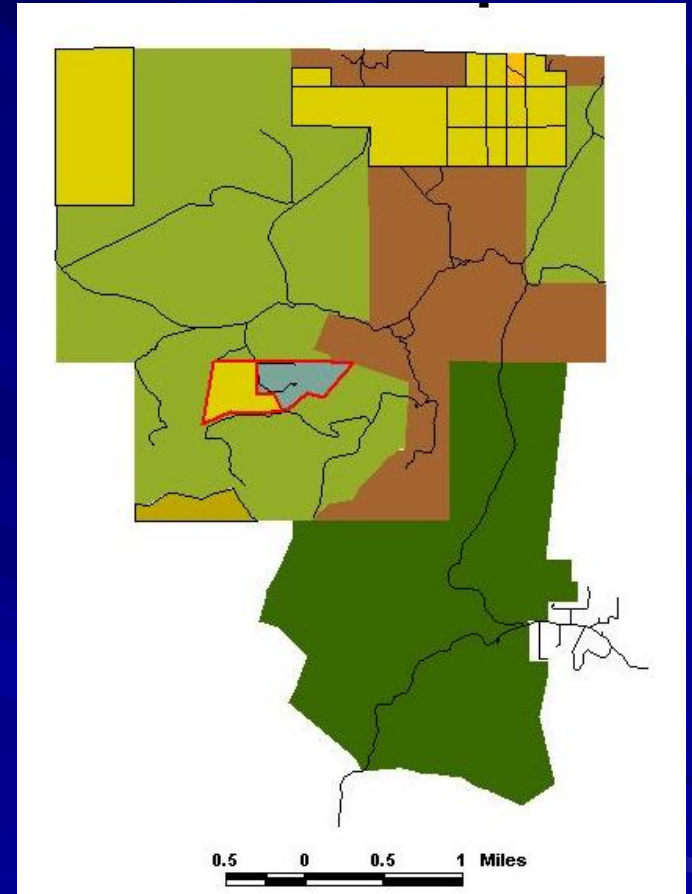
U.S. Forest Service

Bureau of Land Management

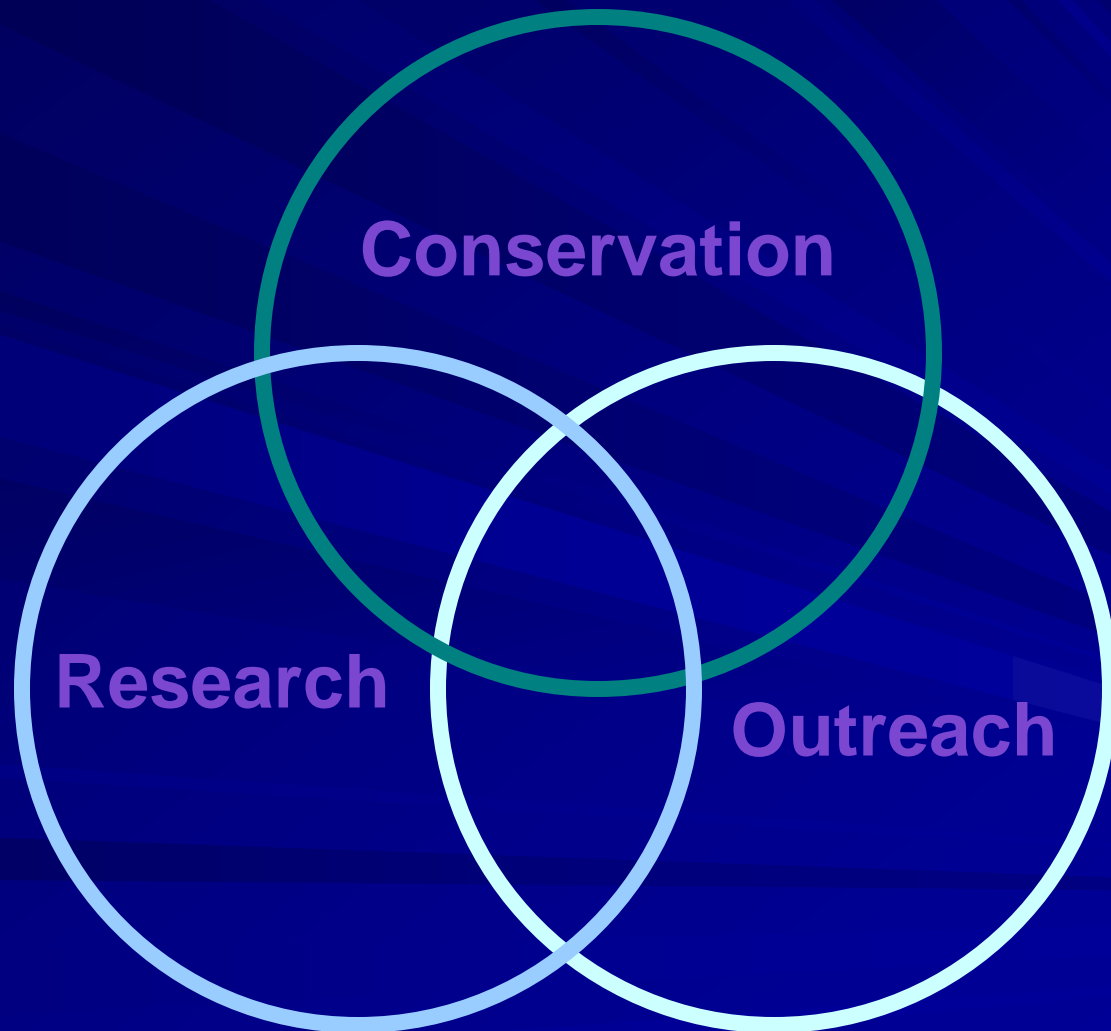
Resolution Copper Company

The Nature Conservancy

The Research Ranch
Foundation

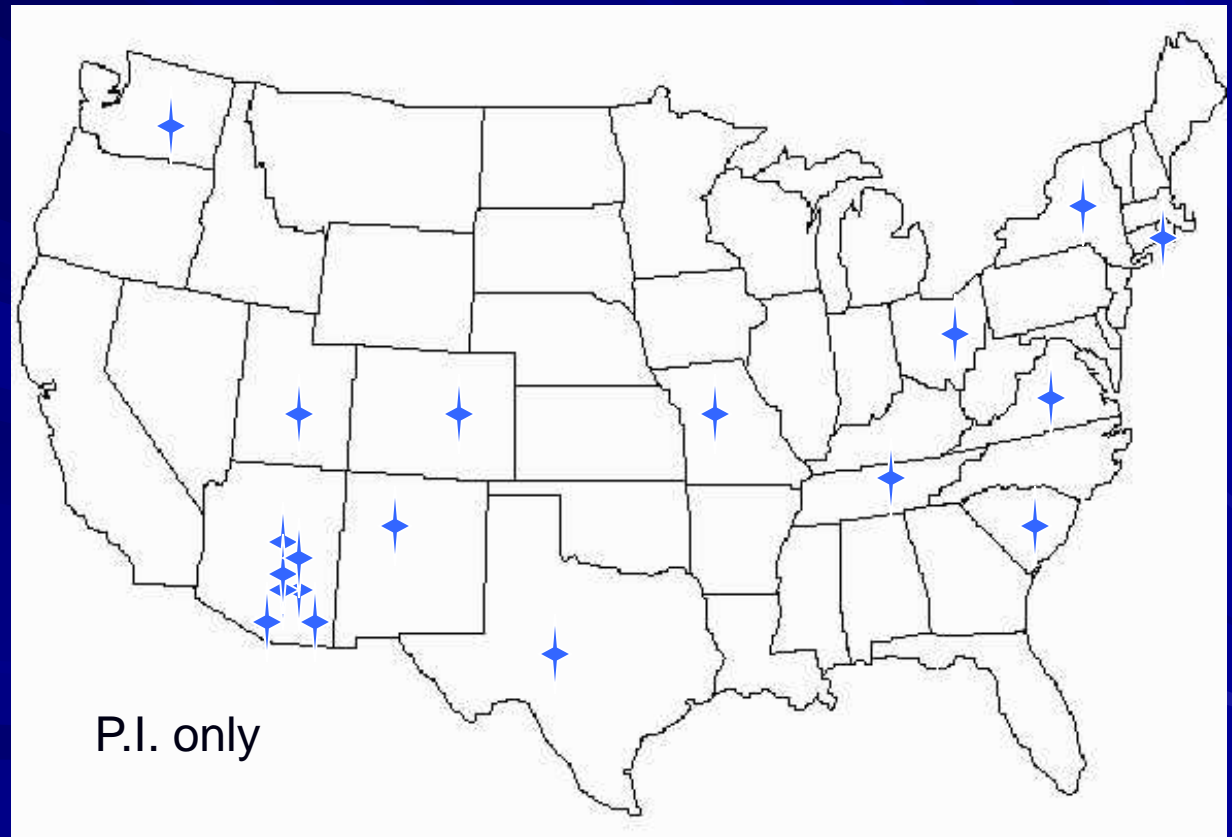


Ariel and Frank Appleton's Vision and Generosity



Where do the researchers come from?

- P.I.s last 12 months
 - 6 agencies
 - 12 colleges and universities
 - 3 independent
 - 2 NGOs



Why conduct research at the Research Ranch?

8000 acre exclosure,
surrounded by ranches,
some development

= opportunities for cross-
fence comparison



Reference area

Control site

Range of habitat types



Elevation

1417 m - 1541 m

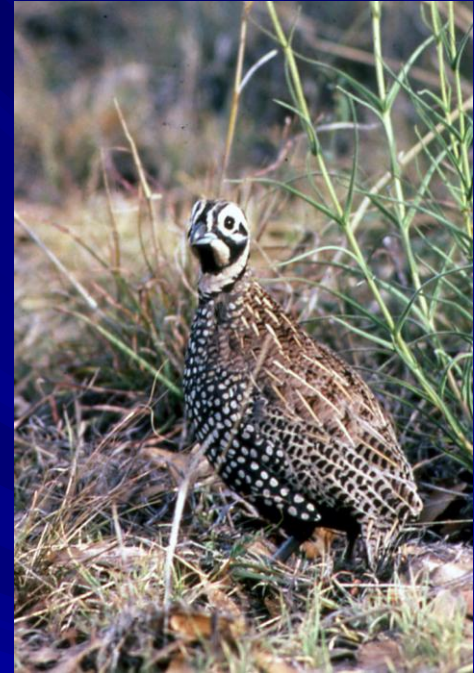


San Pedro
/Babacomari
Watershed



Biologically Rich

- 586 Plant Species (+1)
- 38 Grasshopper Species
- 231 Bird Species
- 51 Herp Species
- 46 Mammal Species



Apacheria Fellowship Program



Pedro Chavarria –
Texas A & M

Travis Naumann –
Univ. of Arizona



Support for Research



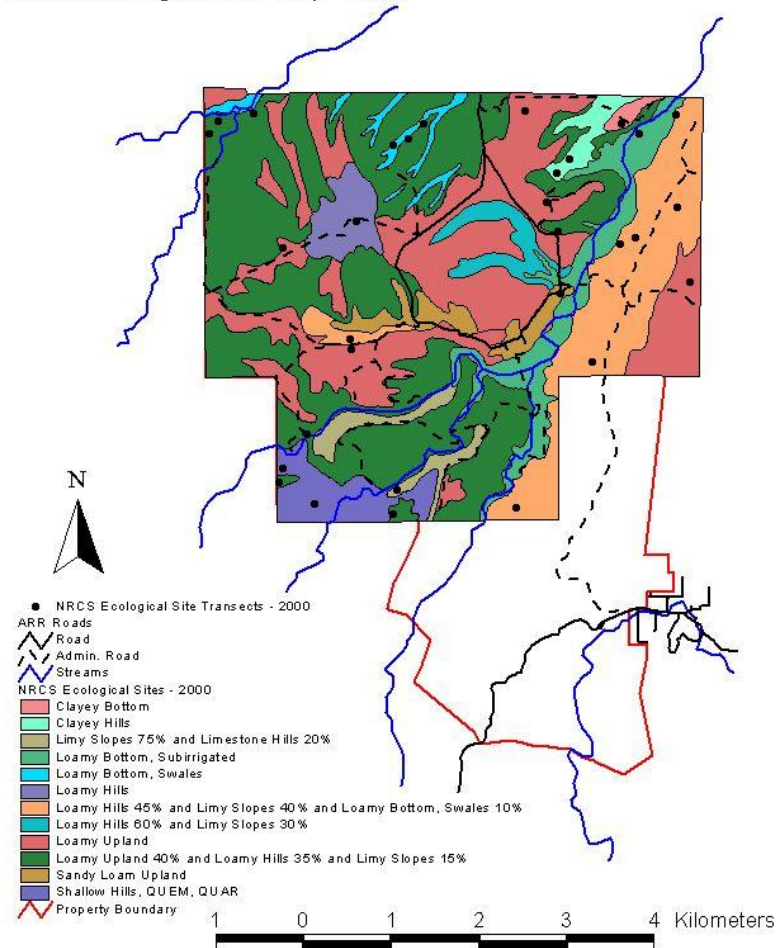
Meteorological information

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

USDA-ARS

Soils and Ecological Site Descriptions

NRCS Ecological Site Map - 2000



Audubon
 Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch
 HC 1 Box 44
 Elgin, AZ 85611
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USDA
 Natural Resource Conservation Service
 Dan Robinett
 Don Breckenfeld
 200 E. Allen Rd.
 Tucson, AZ 85719

- On site herbarium w/flora
- Annotated bibliography
- Fire history
- Monitoring
 - Precipitation
 - Depth to groundwater
 - Vegetation



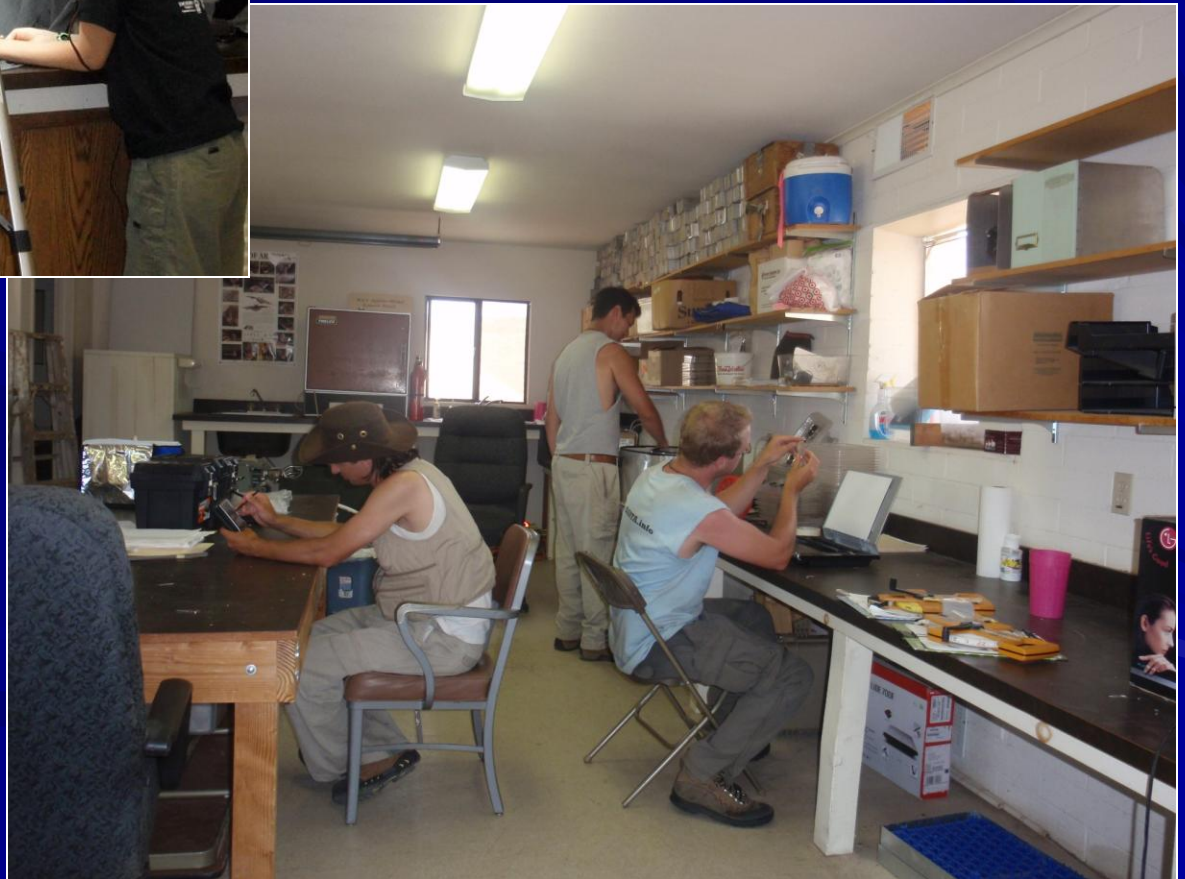
Housing Available on Site

- Bunkhouse
- Swinging H
- Casita



Wi Fi (most of the time!)

Laboratory



Grazing

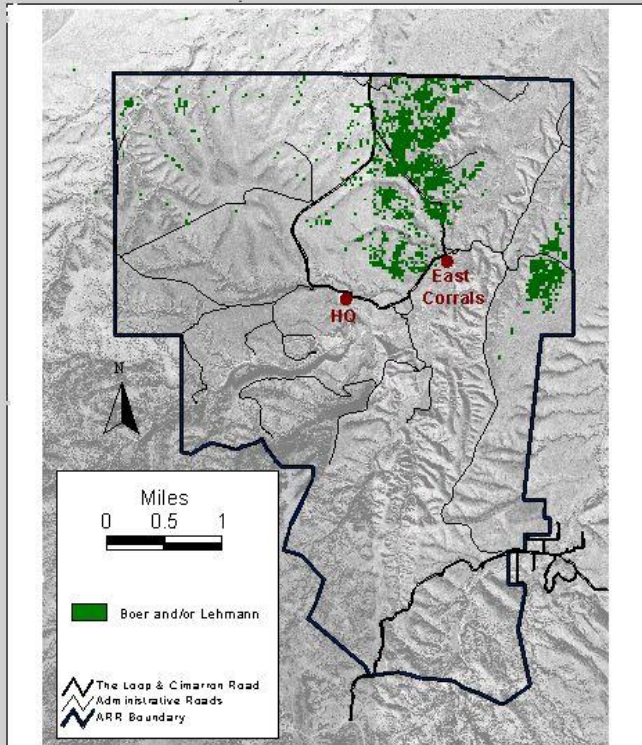
Domestic Livestock



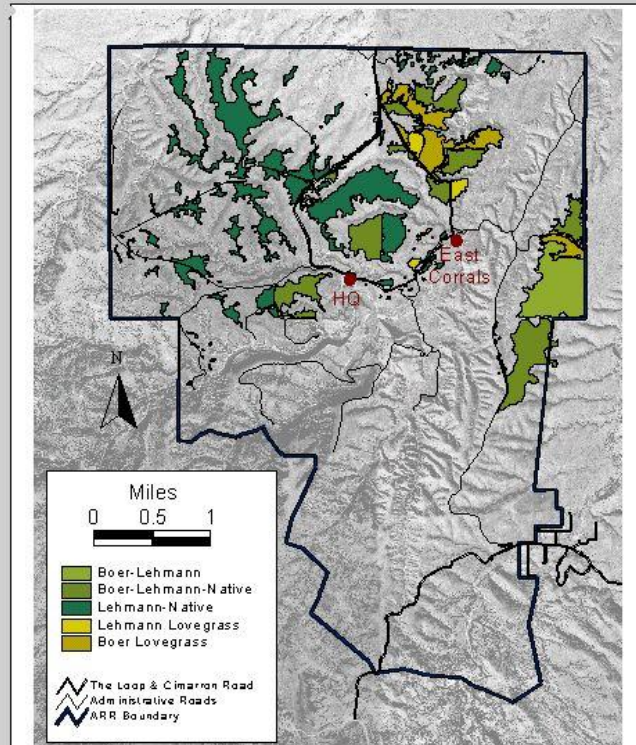
Native Herbivores

Invasive Species

Audubon Research Ranch Exotic Grasses



1985 Landsat Image Classification



2000 GPS Collected Classification

Exurbanization



Fire



What're the results so far?

179 Publications
in our library

Peer Reviewed

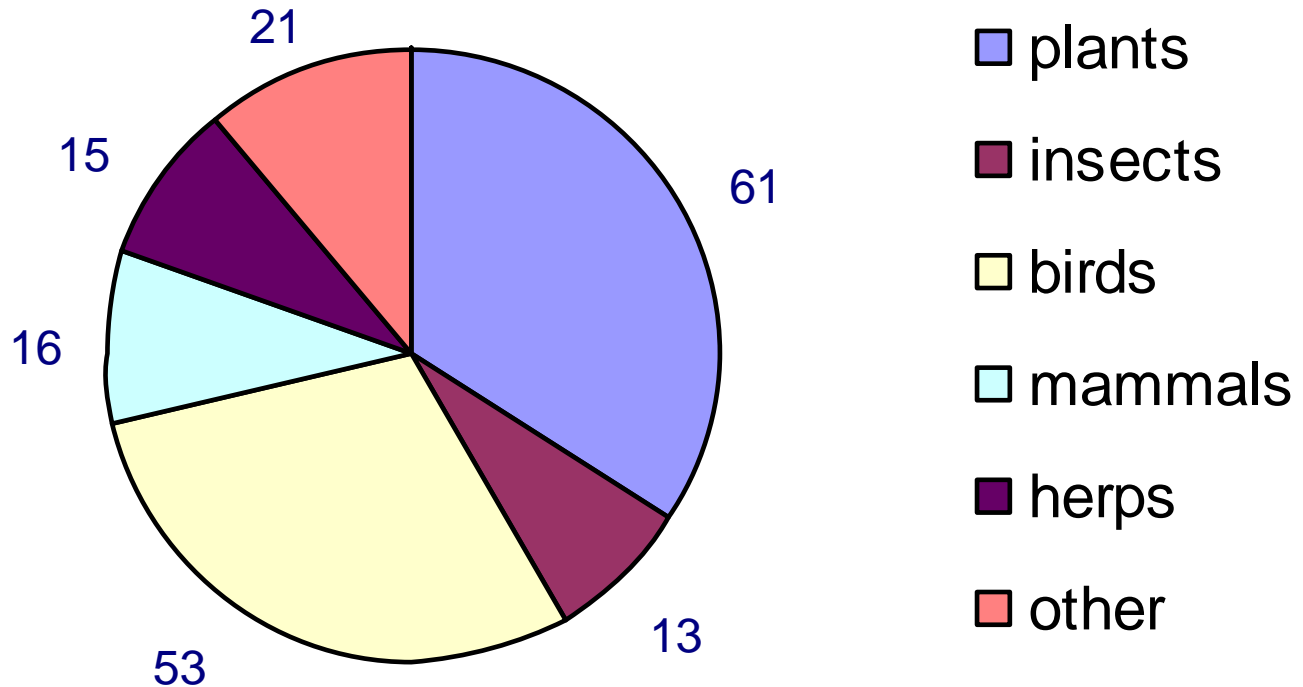
Thesis or Dissertations

Books or Chapters



Plus Agency Reports
Conference Posters and Presentations

Publications associated with the Research Ranch



OUTREACH

Living Gently on the Land

Potluck &
Presentations



Ron Pulliam



Phil Rosen



Susan Wethington



Coming Attractions!

- Mark Stromberg & Ward Brady

What the Ranch was like in the '80s

- Jake Weltzin

Phenology Network

- Gary Nabhan

Something Interesting

Third Annual Science on the Sonoita Plain

Steering Committee: Karen Simms, BLM; Gita Bodner, TNC; Jeff Williamson, CWP; Linda Kennedy, Audubon

The Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership (SVPP) is a voluntary ad hoc association, created in 1995 in response to BLM's initiation of a collaborative planning process for Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

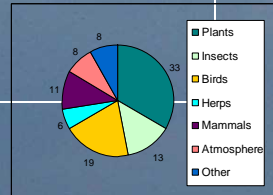
The Science on the Sonoita Plain symposiums bring together and share the results of scientific investigations relevant to the SVPP.



25 Years!



Tom Dabbs, BLM Gila District Manager (above, left) introduces former BLM Arizona State Directors, Dean Bibbes (above) and Henri Bisson (right, above), and Glen Collins, AZ State Lands Dept (right, lower) who explain the genesis of the Cooperative Agreement of 1986. Linda Kennedy shared some of the research resulting from the collaboration (pie chart at right).



Quarterly Meeting of Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership

June 4, 2011

- At the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch of the National Audubon Society
- 8:30am Sign in, enjoy coffee and light refreshments
 - 9:00am Welcome – Linda Kennedy, Director, Research Ranch
SVPP announcements – Netzin Steklis
CWP announcements – Jeff Williamson, Shela McFarlin
 - 9:15am Assessing Ecological Water Needs for Arizona. Joanna Nadeau, University of Arizona
 - 9:50am Intermittent and Ephemeral Streams- Their "Day in the Sun." Julie Stromberg, Arizona State University; Michael Denslow; Gabriele Katz
 - 10:45am Back Then: Enriching our understanding of the watershed through their stories. Shela McFarlin, Cienega Watershed Partnership; JJ Lamb, Vail Preservation Society, Alison Bunting, Empire Ranch Foundation
 - 11:20am Desert Pupfish Reintroductions. Ross Timmons, Arizona Game and Fish Department
 - 12:00 Pupfish Release, followed by Lunch and Poster Session in the Barn
 - 1:20pm 25 Years of Science and Management Cooperation – BLM and Audubon
Linda Kennedy, Director, Research Ranch; Tom Dabbs, District Manager, BLM
With special guests: Dean Bibbes, Henri Bisson, Glen Collins
 - 2:00pm Celebratory Cake and Ice Cream!
 - 2:25pm Constructing Regional Scenario Narratives to Confront Deep Uncertainty. Holly C. Hartmann, Director, Arid Lands Information Center, University of Arizona
 - 3:15pm Bringing Back the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo in Big Bend - A Framework for River Restoration in a Changing Climate. Mark Briggs, World Wildlife Fund
 - 3:50pm Scenario Planning Discussion
 - 4:15pm Wrap Up



McFarlin, Bunting and Lamb share progress on oral history project



Arizona's water needs are discussed by Nadeau



Stromberg explains the importance of streams that are not perennial

Poster Presentations

Islands of Fertility: An Artifact of Grazing? Ginger R.H. Allington, Thomas J. Valone, Katryna M. Kibler.
The Relevance of Communication in Disturbed vs. Undisturbed Environments. Jennifer Chappell, Melissa Hughes, Matina Donaldson-Matasci, Anna Dornhaus.
Herpetofauna at the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch. Roger Cogan
The value of honeybee communication in five Sonoran Desert region habitats. Matina C. Donaldson-Matasci, Anna Dornhaus.
Additions to the Flora of the Research Ranch. Erika Geiger, Linda Kennedy, Steven P. McLaughlin
Effects of Broad-Scale Disturbance on Tree Lizard Populations in Arizona: Behavioral and Isotopic Evidence. Matthew S. Lattanzio, Donald B. Miles
Renewable Energy in Southeastern Arizona: Decision Factors. Wayne Porter
Babacomari River Riparian Protection Project. Dan Robinett
Cienega Watershed Important Bird Areas. Tice Supplee



Kennedy releases the first endangered desert (above) and Timmons explains the tools that made the release possible



Participants enjoyed the poster session and lunch in the barn.

Hartmann and Briggs lead discussion on scenario planning



Photos Courtesy of: Shela McFarlin, Karen Simms, Linda Kennedy

Sponsors: Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership, Bureau of Land Management, Cienega Watershed Partnership, The Nature Conservancy, with financial support from Resolution Copper Company

<http://researchranch.audubon.org>



Audubon

APPLETON-WHITTELL RESEARCH RANCH